

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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September 2, 1939

TWO SCIENTISTS LOST TO INDUSTRY

Death Takes Dr. Paul Isham of Washington Laboratory and Dr. E. C. Dickson of Stanford

Dr. Paul Dwight Isham, 32, research chemist in the Washington Laboratory of the National Canners Association, died suddenly Monday, August 28, 1939, at the Maine General Hospital, Portland, Maine. Death was caused by an embolism, developing from pneumonia. Funeral service was held Friday at East Long Meadow, Mass.

Dr. Isham was born at Hampden, Mass., September 10, 1906, and was educated at Massachusetts State College in Amherst. He received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in science at that institution in 1935, and became an instructor there the same year. During 1936 and 1937, he was chemist in the Food Research Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, stationed at the By-Products Laboratory at the Washington State College in Pullman, Wash. In 1937 he came to Washington, D. C., to work on nutritional and other problems in the Association's Research Laboratories. For the past several weeks, he had been in Maine doing technical research on sardines.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Madelon Burbeck Isham, and by two children, Allan, 4 years, and John Paul, 15 months.

Dr. Isham came to the Association with a fine record of scholastic and scientific achievement. Modest and unassuming in manner, he possessed a keen insight and an acquaintance both wide and thorough with food technology and the science of nutrition. He was a diligent worker and an exceedingly conscientious one.

His death, which has cut short an unusually promising career, will be felt most keenly by his associates, whose affections he had won by his quiet friendliness and sincerity.

Dr. Ernest Charles Dickson, 58, professor of public health and preventive medicine at Stanford University Medical School since 1926, died August 24 of a cerebral hemorrhage. Funeral service was held in San Francisco August 26.

Dr. Dickson was born in Canada and was educated at the University of Toronto. After serving as an interne, he was an instructor at the University of Toronto and at Cooper Medical College. In 1910 he began his work at Stanford.

He first became known to the canners of the country at the time of his pioneer work on botulism, following the outbreak at Stanford University in 1919. His work on the heat resistance of botulinum spores contributed materially to the fundamental information obtained. Dr. Dickson, from that time, maintained an active interest in the industry and in its program of research relating to safe processing of foods.

Appreciation of his work was contained in a resolution adopted at the Association's Convention in January, 1938, when Dr. Dickson, Dr. Karl F. Meyer, Dr. J. C. Geiger, and

the late Dr. W. D. Bigelow were honored for having "rendered signal service to the canning industry and to the public health in the discovery of methods leading to the prevention of botulism and in the development of the canning technique relative thereto."

Dr. Dickson united with the recognized ability in his chosen field, fine qualities of modesty, honesty, sincerity, and courtesy, which endeared him to all those with whom he came into contact.

WAR DEPARTMENT PURCHASES

Information for Canners Who Wish to Receive Invitations to Bid

Inquiries have been received recently by the Association concerning purchases of canned foods by the War Department. The War Department purchasing system is decentralized, and purchases are made throughout the year, according to requirements. Invitations to bid, and the schedules containing specifications of foods required, are issued by various quartermaster supply officers.

Canners who wish to be placed on the list of prospective bidders can obtain the locations of the Army posts, camps, stations, and depots which issue invitations to bid, from the Quartermaster General, War Department, Washington, D. C. The canners can then write to the quartermaster supply officers of these posts and ask to receive directly the schedules of bids for canned foods. The time elapsing between issuance of the invitation and the date on which bids must be filed makes it necessary for the prospective bidder to receive the invitation directly in order to permit filing of the schedules in proper time.

During the past week, the War Department invited bids on small quantities of canned foods, including apples, pumpkin, and sardines, to be opened September 13. The schedule asks bids on 50 cases of fancy apples, 24 No. 2½ cans; 350 cases of fancy pumpkin, 24 No. 2½ enamel-lined cans; and 1,000 cases of domestic sardines, packed in edible vegetable oil, No. ¾'s, key opening cans. Delivery is to be made to General Depot, 1st Ave. & 58th St., Brooklyn, N. Y., not later than October 15.

Copies of this schedule and invitation can be obtained from the Quartermaster Supply Officer, 1st Ave. & 58th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Regulations Governing Grading of Canned Foods

New regulations governing the grading and certification of canned fruits and vegetables by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture, have been promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture and have been published in the *Federal Register* for August 29, 1939. Copies

of the *Register* can be obtained through the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 10 cents each.

The new regulations are to become effective immediately, and are to supersede the regulations approved March 23, 1932, as amended.

Under the reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Marketing Service assumed the inspection and grading activities of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

British Emergency Larder Based on Canned Foods

As a supplement to a recent issue of the *Evening Standard*, London daily newspaper, Miss Janet Bond, principal of the Canned Foods Advisory Bureau in England, prepared a reference guide for stocking an emergency larder, to be used in event of war. The supplement contains recipes by Miss Bond using canned foods, which are declared to be proof against contamination by poison gas. Emergency menus are included, based entirely on canned foods, providing a week's food supply for a family of five, at costs ranging from five shillings to one pound.

The British Government has urged British housewives to buy enough food to provide for their families during an emergency. The *Evening Standard* advises its readers that "This Supplement should be preserved for reference. Keep it carefully, with your Gas Mask, as part of your A.R.P. (Air Raid Precaution) equipment in the home."

Miss Bond, who is home economist for the Metal Box Co. of London, visited the United States in the summer of 1938.

Orders Issued by Federal Trade Commission

Thirteen companies manufacturing approximately 75 per cent of the woodcased lead pencils produced in the United States, were ordered by the Federal Trade Commission this week to discontinue entering into agreements resulting in unlawful restraint of competition through fixing and maintaining uniform prices for their products, and other practices. The Lead Pencil Association, Inc., was ordered to cease supervising the activities of its members for the purpose of fixing or maintaining uniform prices.

The Simmons Company of New York, manufacturer of metal beds, mattresses and allied products, was ordered by the Commission to discontinue unlawful price discriminations in violation of the Robinson-Patman Act. The order specifically prohibits price discrimination between different retailer purchasers of its products of like grade and quality paying the cumulative discounts of the "Simmons Plan" under which discounts of 3½ per cent were paid on purchases of \$75,000; 4 per cent on purchases of \$100,000; 4½ per cent on purchases of \$150,000; and 5 per cent on purchases of \$200,000 and more. No discount was paid on purchases of less than \$50,000.

The Commission found that under the respondent's discount plan, aggregate purchases of a customer during a calendar year not only determined the rate of discount, but the rate so determined was retroactively applied to all purchases made during such year, even to those purchases in the no-discount zone.

The findings point out that it has been possible, under the Simmons Plan, for two competing individual customers to purchase the same quantity of Simmons products of like grade and quality during any year at aggregate prices varying almost as much as \$2,500.

"Fruit Canners of the World" Surveyed

The canneries of the world packed about 75 million cases (basis 24 No. 2½ cans) of canned fruits in 1937, the latest year for which complete figures are available, according to a survey by Clarence E. Birgfeld, assistant chief, Foodstuffs Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The publication will be released September 9 and can be obtained for 10 cents either from the Bureau at Washington, D. C., or from district offices of the Bureau located in principal cities.

The continental United States accounted for 65 per cent of the known world production of canned fruit in 1937, according to the survey, and together with its insular territories of Hawaii and Puerto Rico, accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the world production. Other important producing countries are British Malaya, with slightly more than 4 per cent of the world pack; Germany, with slightly less than 4 per cent; Australia with 3½ per cent; Japan with a little less than 3½ per cent; and Canada with about 2 per cent.

This publication contains brief histories of the canning industries of the various countries, a discussion of and statistics on production and exports, and analyses of several important foreign markets.

Alaska Salmon Pack

Latest figures available on the Alaska salmon pack from the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, indicate a total pack this year up to August 26 of a little more than 5,000,000 cases. On the corresponding date of 1938, the pack amounted to about 6,000,000 cases. The figures in the following table are the latest available from the Bureau, and show the pack by districts and species through August 26, except where noted:

District	Cobos Cases	Chums Cases	Pinks Cases	Kings Cases	Reds Cases	Total Cases
Bristol Bay*	1	86,085		4,682	1,048,184	1,133,952
Alaska Peninsula:						
North*		6,006	1	443	56,096	62,516
South*	9,807	120,090	292,200	4,458	149,238	575,793
Chignik	871	6,363	12,983	353	132,289	152,359
Kodiak*	4,647	55,236	602,113	844	118,171	780,711
Cook Inlet*	13,982	21,565	15,517	15,573	181,587	248,224
Resurrection Bay			266		1,627	1,893
Copper River*				2,185	52,091	54,276
Prince W. Sound	3,085	37,695	128,564	246	10,876	179,366
Yakutat	399	7	2,119	1,627	25,325	29,467
Icy Strait*	3,615	38,943	78,127	151	46,675	167,511
Western*	3,536	34,863	87,137	36	30,468	155,040
Eastern*	3,007	37,142	210,172	317	11,607	262,305
Wrangell	10,073	29,381	302,933	18	17,093	359,498
West Coast*	7,507	17,562	96,118		18,618	139,505
Southern	14,825	57,190	521,616	138	46,313	640,082
Totals	74,845	538,028	2,349,806	30,771	1,941,288	4,934,798

*Final.

*Pack figures for week ending August 19.

CANNED FOOD EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Exports	July, 1938		July, 1939		Jan.-July, 1938		Jan.-July, 1939	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Meats, total.....	850,998	\$284,269	1,185,781	\$360,839	7,873,790	\$2,715,038	9,090,786	\$2,869,361
Beef, corned, etc.....	29,630	6,893	26,921	6,392	267,015	69,787	209,948	49,705
Other beef.....	55,370	17,965	110,781	44,710	963,380	344,360	835,336	317,804
Pork.....	612,577	219,678	760,384	244,269	5,102,846	1,926,933	5,946,179	2,015,550
Sausage.....	75,944	21,290	143,285	39,335	711,323	200,907	1,024,489	279,552
Other meat.....	77,477	18,243	144,410	26,133	829,235	173,071	1,074,834	206,780
Vegetables, total.....	3,371,993	\$42,982	3,665,553	\$56,707	19,994,338	\$1,887,932	24,108,062	\$2,185,004
Asparagus.....	1,687,043	233,337	1,627,390	223,390	6,407,379	923,714	8,270,808	1,105,322
Beans, baked and with pork.....	463,140	18,982	469,727	19,622	2,977,213	133,996	3,254,547	132,433
Corn.....	171,139	10,724	257,210	16,536	1,213,244	90,016	1,776,987	123,824
Peas.....	232,606	16,926	303,438	20,613	2,104,423	159,740	2,505,324	161,587
Soups.....	245,218	23,078	290,083	25,728	1,760,246	175,142	1,791,441	180,523
Tomatoes.....	45,574	2,686	149,009	6,557	678,367	41,589	866,546	49,453
Tomato paste and puree.....	22,687	1,827	98,328	6,827	732,655	49,860	844,657	62,034
Tomato juice.....	285,518	15,950	154,964	9,468	2,146,438	123,201	1,566,432	93,960
Other vegetables.....	219,068	19,472	325,404	27,966	1,974,373	190,624	3,231,320	275,868
Milk:								
Condensed.....	219,680	23,398	215,246	22,405	4,097,279	496,462	1,168,437	130,296
Evaporated.....	1,816,851	123,965	2,338,065	147,794	12,829,326	917,998	13,902,024	896,524
Fish:								
Salmon.....	2,675,798	425,172	670,121	97,329	16,799,323	2,752,072	20,608,989	3,048,106
Sardines.....	1,008,476	72,484	2,795,480	208,347	19,120,732	1,301,783	26,932,272	1,793,576
Other fish.....			29,880	5,316			1,145,400	100,231
Shellfish:								
Shrimp.....	199,222	40,287	422,972	70,349	2,475,952	524,304	3,270,362	534,027
Other shellfish.....	87,534	11,655	55,002	9,191	1,216,992	199,891	533,761	83,645
Fruits, total.....	16,911,237	1,238,435	16,165,115	1,102,691	136,017,019	10,202,781	158,235,605	10,327,184
Grapefruit.....	1,895,484	114,355	3,203,611	176,217	30,491,701	1,999,355	37,969,414	2,018,022
Loganberries.....	1,546,027	139,587	1,645,481	131,315	1,757,653	148,450	1,913,443	151,659
Other berries.....	52,868	7,013	137,463	12,494	466,236	52,924	452,590	42,648
Apples and sauce.....	1,020,269	45,877	534,423	23,392	5,792,064	257,750	6,786,099	293,600
Apricots.....	3,150,125	210,099	3,446,841	186,995	14,305,548	980,779	14,007,815	863,599
Cherries.....	633,064	53,182	282,356	40,387	1,808,808	180,640	1,814,869	164,001
Prunes.....	69,358	5,666	45,349	3,753	613,907	53,843	673,092	46,833
Peaches.....	2,491,651	182,912	2,846,806	179,730	24,330,422	1,745,008	35,110,940	2,113,618
Pears.....	1,843,236	135,997	1,169,140	83,917	32,067,010	2,232,199	31,069,666	2,066,102
Pineapple.....	1,142,195	96,262	1,146,872	96,023	5,892,699	531,192	9,624,843	754,359
Fruit salad and cocktail.....	2,295,431	240,361	1,545,153	132,359	16,888,204	1,851,370	17,016,845	1,649,769
Other fruits.....	171,529	17,124	161,620	16,109	1,593,700	100,262	1,855,989	163,064
Fruit juices (in gallons):								
Pineapple.....			54,461	29,895			4,400,054	247,391
Grapefruit.....			372,254	106,145			1,612,462	520,988
Orange.....			65,317	38,651			322,719	231,524
Other fruit juices.....			34,998	36,656			219,292	202,934
Imports								
Meat:								
Beef.....	7,179,043	815,913	8,081,615	787,614	356,363	152,482	49,077,788	4,887,344
Other meats.....	10,591	2,832	9,178	2,470	154,303	40,573	133,534	35,858
Milk: condensed and evaporated...	42,098	3,772	20,014	1,016	331,770	26,893	115,604	6,761
Fish:								
Packed in oil:								
Sardines.....	1,510,899	215,036	2,474,426	353,321	10,135,346	1,533,261	15,739,230	2,310,612
Anchovies.....	133,025	55,633	94,631	32,171	1,209,900	548,840	1,372,982	515,181
Tuna.....	912,534	155,028	888,846	132,232	4,394,562	716,264	5,638,880	895,932
Other fish in oil.....	55,369	11,152	67,654	12,839	361,016	95,538	355,996	90,854
Other fish not in oil.....	817,503	73,613	762,776	69,206	7,396,765	664,975	8,194,477	749,847
Caviar and other roe.....	28,853	37,451	10,204	6,455	99,264	61,976	90,531	52,125
Shellfish:								
Crab meat and sauce.....	1,396,911	516,963	979,884	335,115	4,465,397	1,581,149	6,085,224	2,090,676
Clams and oysters.....	73,350	12,035	36,653	6,920	401,158	80,924	485,631	112,098
Lobsters.....	75,153	36,781	88,453	42,550	399,332	179,991	563,457	280,876
Other shellfish.....	1,132,847	119,482	814,621	102,239	8,582,491	647,089	9,710,643	713,119
Vegetables:								
Peas.....	12,133	759	22,887	2,524	264,858	22,632	1,020,179	111,177
Pimientos.....			12,600	1,538			133,289	17,075
Mushrooms.....	54,856	12,832	79,624	15,350	501,838	121,520	527,974	105,900
Tomatoes.....	3,988,972	188,551	2,563,102	98,430	29,253,097	1,204,709	36,930,834	1,448,836
Tomato paste and sauce.....	778,483	48,394	227,668	17,339	5,182,892	346,352	3,942,769	301,978
Other vegetables.....	9,451	565	9,904	518	135,464	8,084	129,034	6,567
Fruit:								
Pineapple, dutiable.....	2,696,374	142,857	3,366,187	182,610	6,315,081	354,017	12,751,354	581,806
Pineapple, free (Philippines).....			8,016,619	233,600		48,843	26,226,945	799,045
Mandarin oranges.....	921,175		174,340	12,252	1,938,405		854,587	

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot Shipments as Reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

VEGETABLES	Week ending—			Season total to—	
	Aug. 26, 1938	Aug. 26, 1939	Aug. 19, 1939	Aug. 26, 1938	Aug. 26, 1939
Beans, snap and lima.....	9	2	10	8,120	6,551
Tomatoes.....	661	521	321	27,779	21,387
Green peas.....	216	220	187	5,058	6,074
Spinach.....	20	25	24	6,546	6,275
Others:					
Domestic, competing directly.....	1,070	1,081	928	57,013	53,602
Imports, competing indirectly.....	10	4	1	23	5
FRUITS					
Citrus, domestic.....	2,436	1,908	1,997	158,730	170,314
Imports.....	41	7	2	74	12
Others, domestic.....	3,637	3,409	3,518	28,598	26,831

Stocks of Canned Tomato Juice

Stocks of canned tomato juice in canners' hands on August 1, 1939, amounted to 2,383,496 actual cases, according to figures compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics. This represents a decrease of 1,233,689 cases from stocks on hand June 1, 1939. The August 1 stocks represent the carryover of tomato juice from the 1938 pack.

These figures, and those in the table below, are based on reports from about 93 per cent of the pack and carryover, together with estimates for the 7 per cent not reported. Stocks on August 1 are shown in the following table by can size:

Can name	Cans per case	Stocks
8Z Tall (including 8Z Short).....	48	8,195
No. 1 Picnic.....	48	47,482
No. 211 Cylinder.....	48	91,835
No. 300 (including all 300 cans from 407 to 412).....	48	418,872
No. 1 Tall.....	48	140,745
No. 303 Cylinder.....	24	241,926
No. 2.....	24	230,154
No. 2 Cylinder (including all 307 cans from 505 to 513).....	24	428,945
No. 3 Cylinder (including 404 cans from 615 to 708).....	12	155,438
No. 10 (including some No. 5).....	6	298,398
Miscellaneous Tin.....	..	38,326
Glass.....	..	283,180
Total.....		2,383,496

Temperature and Rainfall Records

The following table gives the average temperature and total rainfall for the principal canning districts for each of the past two weeks, as shown by the U. S. Weather Bureau reports for selected stations in these districts:

District	Week ended Aug. 22, 1939		Week ended Aug. 29, 1939	
	Temp.	Rain.	Temp.	Rain.
Maine.....	68	1.4	71	1.0
Western New York.....	70	.1	71	.0
Tri-State.....	81	3.0	77	.1
South Central Ohio.....	70	.0	71	.0
Central Indiana.....	74	1.7	71	.0
Central Illinois.....	73	.2	71	.5
Northern Illinois, Southern Wisconsin.....	70	.4	69	.3
Southern Minnesota.....	72	1.6	68	.1
Northern Colorado.....	71	.1	74	.3
Northern Utah.....	78	.0	78	.2
Northwestern Washington.....	69	.0	64	.4
Southeastern Washington.....	77	.0	75	.0

Indexes on Wholesale and Retail Prices

Indexes on wholesale and retail prices in the tables below are the latest available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The wholesale price indexes are based on the average for 1926 taken as 100 per cent, while for retail prices the average for the years 1923-25 is taken as 100 per cent.

	Wholesale Prices					
	Aug. 26, 1939	Aug. 19, 1939	Aug. 12, 1939	Aug. 5, 1939	July 29, 1939	Aug. 27, 1938
All commodities.....	74.8	74.6	74.8	75.1	74.8	77.8
All foods.....	66.7	66.2	66.7	67.2	66.7	73.0
	Retail Prices					
	July 18, 1939	June 13, 1939	May 16, 1939	July 12, 1938	July 15, 1932	
All foods.....	76.5	70.3	70.5	80.0	68.3	
Fresh fruits and vegetables.....	62.7	65.1*	65.3	60.3	62.4	
Canned fruits and vegetables.....	73.9	73.8	73.8	78.0	70.5	

* Revised.

Consumer Education in Colorado

Word comes from Miss Ruth Atwater of the Home Economics Division that there is great interest in consumer education in Colorado, and that the subject is being approached from a constructive, practical point of view. Descriptive labeling has won its way there. Supervisors of homemaking and of distributive education as well as dietitians have expressed satisfaction at the helpfulness of the publications of the Home Economics Division.

Miss Atwater broadcast over WCFL in Chicago and over KOA in Denver. In both broadcasts the diversity of the canning industry, and the wholesomeness of canned foods and their nutritive value were emphasized. The broadcasts were interviews and each lasted 15 minutes. The leaflet of the Division entitled, "Answers to Questions about Canned Foods" formed the basis of an interview which she gave over Station KDYL, in Salt Lake City, Utah, on August 22. The same day she broadcast over station KUTA in Salt Lake City, where she gave suggestions for picnic menus based on canned foods.

Before State extension leaders at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, Miss Atwater spoke on the subject "What is Back of a Can of Food." During the past week, she has been attending meetings of the American Dietetic Association at Los Angeles, where publications of the National Canners Association have been exhibited in a booth.

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